

When God Got The World Ready

GALATIANS 4:4-5

By B. B. McGee, Pastor
New Salem Church, Columbus, Miss.

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of woman, made under the law to redeem them that were under the law that we might receive the adoption of sons."

Are you ready for Christmas? This is the question that is perhaps being asked more than any other during these days. What do we mean when we ask this question? Is it a matter of making out a list? Or getting our shopping done? Or mailing all our cards? Just what do we really mean by getting ready for Christmas?

In the midst of all the tinsel and toys—the frantic fury of rushing to get our shopping done—have we in all these things lost the real meaning of Christmas, as many fear that we may have? A statement that has come from the lips of many in recent years is: "I just can't seem to get the Christmas spirit anymore." What is

the Christmas spirit after all? A lady said to us, recently, "It will not be Christmas this year. My son will not be able to be with us." Surely any Christmas would be more enjoyable if all our family could be with us. But is this what really makes it Christmas?

It takes time to get ready for anything that is worth doing. God used centuries, even millenniums, in getting the world ready for the first Christmas the world ever knew.

What does Paul mean by "in the fulness of time"? In the New Testament, *Good News for Modern Man*, we read: "When the time was right." This says that everything had to be just right for Christ to come into the world—that He did not come until this was true, God's timing was perfect. What are some of the things God did to get the world ready for the first Christmas?

I God Prepared the Environment into Which Jesus Came

This necessarily looks at some of the physical

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800 Baptist Leaders Plan For '73-79 SBC Emphases

NASHVILLE (BP) — About 800 Southern Baptist leaders took a long look into the future of space and religion here at the Southern Baptist Planning and Promotion Conference.

Providing the peek into the future of space for the next 15 years was Edward B. Lindaman, a space scientist and department manager at North American Rockwell Corporation Downey, Calif.

Albert McClellan, of Nashville, program planning secretary for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee unveiled proposed religious objectives, themes and emphases for Southern Baptists for a six-year period, 1973-79.

The two speakers shared the attention of the Baptist leaders with Evangelist Billy Graham, who spoke at a luncheon, and Olin T. Binkley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.

Lindaman, who has accepted the presidency of Whitworth College at Spokane, Washington, told the Baptist leaders the same principles of planning for space exploration could be used to plan for accomplishing the mission of the church.

Five elements comprised the planning process for the moon shot, Lindaman said. He identified them as terms, goals, objectives, measurement of feedback and resources.

Describing the advances in space exploration, Lindaman said this nation's orbiting observatory on its first anniversary in space on December 6 provided the knowledge the universe containing earth is 40 billion light years wide, twice the size men had thought.

Concerning the proposed trip to Mars, Lindaman said such a venture, if undertaken, would begin on November 21, 1981 from a 270-foot-long, 12-man space craft attached to an orbiting space station.

Such a trip would find the explorers reaching Mars the following August and arriving home by way of Venus on August 19, 1983, almost two years after the trip started.

A report by the joint SBC-state planning committee provided the look at the future in the area of religion.

McClellan, the general chairman,

said that the committee brought together the work of the 30 state conventions and 19 SBC agencies. The committee recommended to the 800 planners attending the meeting a statement of purpose objectives, themes and emphases for Southern Baptist programs during the years 1973-79.

Throughout the week, 14 different groups of state and SBC workers discussed and evaluated the suggested statements, refining them and making suggestions to the joint planning committee for revisions. The 14 groups also made suggestions for specific projects to carry out the objectives and themes.

After all the final reports from the 14 groups are compiled, the joint planning committee will recommend the statements to the SBC Inter-Agency Council, the SBC Executive Committee, and finally to the Southern Baptist Convention for consideration and action.

McClellan said that the statements of objectives and emphases may undergo numerous revisions before the

final recommendations are made to the SBC, but that there seemed to be unanimity in the discussions on approval of the 1973-79 themes.

General overarching theme for the six year period would be if adopted, "Sharing Christ," with a specific theme each year.

Committee recommendations for the themes were: 1973-74, "Sharing Christ Through His Word;" 1974-75, "Sharing Christ in a Secular Society;" 1975-76, "Sharing Christ by Proclaiming Liberty;" 1976-78 (two years), "Sharing Christ Through Bold Missions;" and 1978-79, "Sharing Christ by Reconciliation."

Following McClellan's report, Southeastern Seminary President Binkley spoke on the theme for Southern Baptist Convention programs during 1970-71, "Living the Spirit of Christ in Openness and Freedom."

Binkley said that the source of freedom is the absolute lordship of Jesus Christ, saying that the paradox of Christianity is that Christians believe that man finds ultimate freedom in being

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The Members and Employees of THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD

Extend to All of Our Readers

Best wishes for a
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

Graham Agrees With Criswell on Liberalism

NASHVILLE (BP) — Evangelist Billy Graham told 800 top Southern Baptist leaders here he agrees with Southern Baptist President W. A. Criswell of Dallas "when he warns us against error that can destroy us from within."

Graham's comments drew strong "amen" comments from the Baptist leaders when he questioned why Baptists would want to adopt the same methods and theology of the Europeans, when they go to Europe and see so many empty churches there.

The famed evangelist was apparently referring to Criswell's highly publicized remarks earlier this fall when he urged liberals who cannot accept the convention's adopted statements of faith to leave and join another church instead of boring from within "and destroying us."

"We have a responsibility to guard against error," Graham said in his speech at a luncheon sponsored by the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission in connection with the Southern Baptist Planning and Promotion Conference here.

Graham warned that "one of Satan's techniques is to infiltrate us," and that Baptists must always guard against theological error within their ranks.

His comments concerning theological liberalism came as one of four points in a message in which he said Southern Baptists have something unique to contribute to the world, but also have some corresponding heavy responsibilities.

One of these responsibilities, Graham said, is to remain theologically

true to the Bible. The Southern Baptist Convention, he added, is the most evangelical of all denominations and is one of the most theologically sound of all.

Graham said another unique responsibility of the denomination is to continue its strong evangelistic efforts, for "if we lose our evangelistic emphasis, we are lost."

The outspoken evangelist said there is a corresponding responsibility of the SBC in the area of social action. "For too long we have allowed people to point their finger at us and say we didn't have social concern," Graham said.

He urged Baptists to attack the areas of social injustice, racism, war, poverty; and to equally attack the problems of pride, lust, greed and

jealousy among individuals.

Earlier in his address, Graham had painted a dismal verbal picture of the problems of society, saying that some experts predict that if the problems of pollution are not solved, the world has only a 50-50 chance of reaching the 1980's.

Citing not only the war in Vietnam, but 45 other wars across the world, Graham declared war, racial turmoil, crime (which he said increased 300 percent last month in Washington, D.C.) and even a religious crisis in the nation.

Declaring that "the ecumenical movement has lost its ecumenical spirit," Graham observed that crisis and turmoil during the National Council of Churches' meeting in Detroit one week earlier "had threatened the

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Matthew 3:9-10 "...lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. "When they saw

the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." (HMB Photo)

Preliminary Estimates Show 11.4 Million SBC Members

NASHVILLE (BP)—Statistical projections based on early profile analysis indicate that membership in Southern Baptist Convention churches will be 11.4 million Southern Baptist leaders were told here.

If the unofficial projections are correct, church membership would have increased by 132,500 over the 1968 total church membership. (+1.17%)

Probable decreases were projected in Sunday School, Training Union, Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union enrollments, and in the number of baptisms compared to 1968.

An increase was projected in music ministry enrollments.

"The churches involved in this estimate are not completely representative of all Southern Baptist churches."

Some church size categories and state conventions are over represented due in part to the sequence of associational meetings," said Martin Bradley, secretary, research and statistics department, Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

However, allowance is made for this in the statistical process of projection. The estimate disclosed a possible decline in number of baptisms from 373,025 to 368,288. This would be a decrease of 4,737 from the 1968 total. (-1.27%)

The total Training Union ongoing and cumulative enrollment was projected to be 2,649,612 compared to 2,

725,097 in 1968, a decreased of 75,485. (-2.77%)

Sunday School enrollment was projected as 7,405,166 in 1969, a decrease of 140,347. (-1.86%)

Woman's Missionary Union enrollments were projected as 1,291,258 for 1969, a decrease of 18,000. (-1.39%)

Brotherhood, the men's and boys' mission education organization, was projected to decrease by 15,861 with a total enrollment of 433,077 for 1969. (-3.49%)

Music ministry continued upward with an estimated total enrollment of 1,065,805, and increase of 27,515 (+2.65%)

Total mission gifts were projected

to be \$134,373,708 for 1969, an increase of \$9,849,977. (+4.96%)

Total receipts of churches were projected to be \$338,987,856 an increase of \$44,040,105. (+5.54%)

Final statistics based on church letters from more than 34,000 SBC churches will be available in February.

The preliminary statistical projections were released here during sessions of the Southern Baptist Planning and Promotion Conference.

(Editor's Note: The percentages in parenthesis in BP story above were added in by Baptist Record.)

Few Attend Open Hearing On SBC Representation

NASHVILLE (BP) — Sparse attendance hampered an open hearing held here concerning problems caused by overflowing attendance at the annual Southern Baptist Convention.

Only five persons other than the committee members studying the problem showed up for the hearing, and they were an hour late.

"We came here hoping someone would give us the solutions to the problems, and we were left with only the problem," said James Monroe, chairman of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, and pastor of the First Baptist Church, Ft. Walton, Beach, Fla.

The open hearing had been scheduled, and publicized in advance, as part of a study the convention requested the Executive Committee "to make concerning the possibility of changing the system of representation of messengers to the convention."

R. F. Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church of Durham, N. C., and chairman of the bylaws subcommittee of the SBC Executive Committee, had invited all persons who had information or opinions concerning the proposal to attend the hearing and voice their views.

Only a few accepted the invitation, and all five said later they did not really come to share any strong views or make any proposals, but just to hear what others might say.

An associational superintendent of missions from Missouri, M. S. Lloyd,

and a pastor, Edward Black, both from Hayti, Mo., were in Nashville on other business, dropped by to "hear" what was said at the hearing. Three denominational workers in Nashville came for the same reason.

Most of the time in the hearing was spent discussing the problems caused by overflowing attendance at the annual convention, including lack of hotel space, seating problems at the convention hall, the proliferation of other meetings held in connection with the convention, etc.

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'Camille' Offerings Reach \$773,377.31

Hurricane Camille relief offerings being sent through the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board reached \$773,377.31 through Dec. 15.

This is an increase of \$35,108.06 since the last report given on Nov. 24. The offering will go to the Baptist churches and people in south Mississippi who suffered such extensive damage from Hurricane Camille which struck the Coast on Sunday night, August 17.

Other churches or individuals still wishing to contribute may do so by sending their funds to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P. O. Box 394, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

Graham Agrees With Dr. Criswell

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very existence of the National Council.

The real struggle, he added, "is the unseen struggle between God and Satan, between the forces of good and evil."

Southern Baptists, he said, can play a unique role in that struggle if they will remain true to the Bible, continue to emphasize evangelism and missions, and to put their beliefs into social action.

"Thank God for Southern Baptists' concern for world mission," Graham declared. "Let's never lose that concern. Let's go into the whole world—a world afire with revolution."

Graham strongly supported "both openly and privately" the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program, the unified budget plan that supports a total world missions program sponsored by the denomination.

"No other denomination has devised a better plan for supporting a total missions program," Graham said. Then he pointed to a backdrop depicting the theme for the Cooperative Program during 1969, entitled "Concern," and said: "The Cooperative Program is 'Concern' for people."

Earlier, in a news conference, Graham fielded reporters' questions on Vice President Agnew's remarks concerning television news coverage, the Vietnam War and reported massacre at My Lai 4, and a dozen other topics.

On Vietnam, Graham said he had never taken a position personally. He acknowledged his close contact with President Nixon, but said he had not

discussed the My Lai massacre reports with him.

"To shoot women and children is absolutely inexcusable," Graham declared. He added, however, that nobody knows for sure what really happened at the Song My community, or

whether there was really a massacre there. Graham said he supported the idea of a presidential commission to investigate the charges.

Graham commented on Vice President Agnew's remarks, saying that sometimes the news media needs someone to give them suggestions.

Then he offered a few suggestions of his own, saying the press should do a better job of covering the religious news of the day, citing an interracial evangelistic crusade he led in Montgomery that got no network coverage and the recent Anaheim, Calif., crusade he led.

Few Attend ---

(Continued from page 1)

Smith pointed out that if each of the 35,000 churches in the SBC sent the maximum number of messengers to the convention, there would be more than 250,000 persons at the annual convention. He added that if only one pastor and one layman came from each church, there would still be 70,000 messengers.

Last June, a record 16,678 messengers registered at the convention in New Orleans, although total attendance probably went far beyond that figure.

Smith said that the committee would continue to study the problems related to the matter, and had compiled a full file of editorials that have appeared in Baptist state papers concerning possible alternatives for the convention.

He expressed disappointment at the lack of attendance at the open hearing, but said that any individual who wished to share his views with the committee as part of the study could do so by writing to Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tenn.

800 Baptist Leaders ---

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coming a slave to the leadership and direction of Jesus Christ.

He cited three safeguards against the abuse of freedom, as summarized by the Apostle Paul: "(1) Is this course of action appropriate in the Christian Life? (2) Is this course of action constructive? and (3) Does this course of action lead to slavery, or towards greater freedom?"

Binkley said that faith in Christ sets man free from inward bondage to sin, self-centeredness, anxiety, guilt and moral blindness, from excessive concern for ourselves, and from the fear of reasonable criticism.

Following the closing address by Binkley to the general session, the 800 state and SBC leaders split into 140 different groups to discuss specific plans for the 1970's.

The meetings were held for state convention executive secretaries, and SBC agency heads; state and SBC workers in the Sunday School, church music, church training, Brotherhood, student work, Woman's Missionary Union, evangelism, missions, semi-

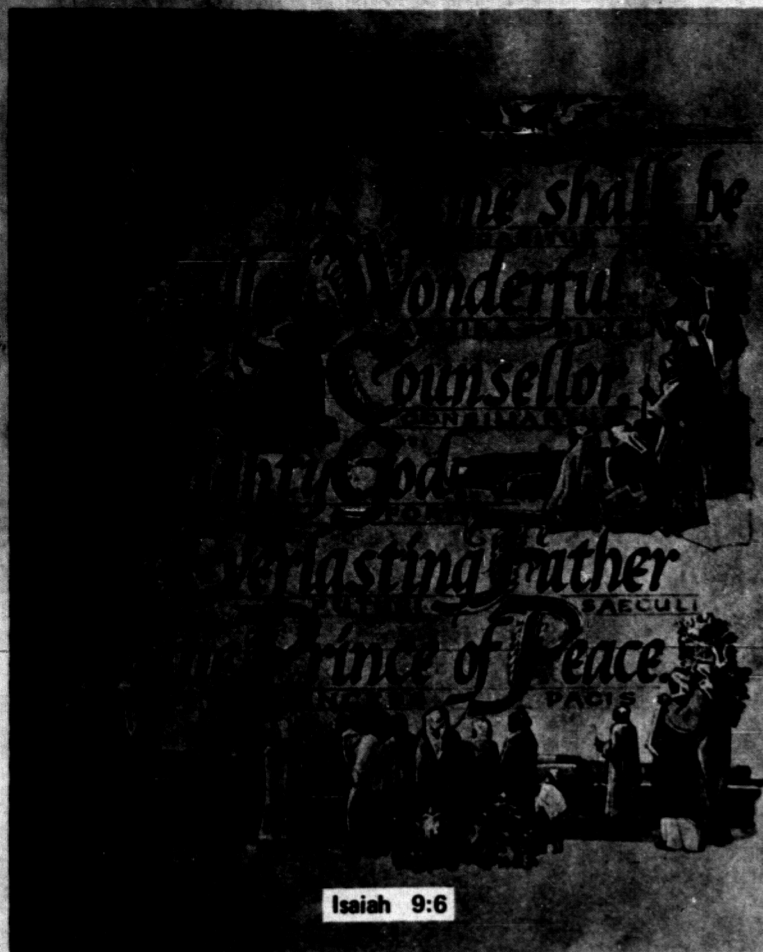
South Carolina GAs Send Money For "Assembly Fund"

The GA girls of a Baptist association in South Carolina have sent a check for \$150 to the Mississippi Baptist Convention, for the "Assembly Fund."

Mr. and Mrs. Julian Hart of Vance, South Carolina, were instrumental in beginning this fund, as they have friends in Mississippi. They are both active in church and associational work in their state. Mrs. Hart is GA leader for her association, and the GA girls read in the Baptist Courier, the South Carolina state Baptist paper, the account of Gulfshore's destruction by the hurricane. Their concern was so great that they decided to do what they could to help in the rebuilding of the assembly in some way.

nary extension, stewardship and church architecture programs.

Sessions were also held for associational superintendents of missions, and associational directors of religious education and music.



Isaiah 9:6

Unto Us A Child Is Born...

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.—Isaiah 9:6. (Photo courtesy Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, Minn.)

When God Got The World Ready For The First Christmas

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cal, political, and intellectual factors existent in the world into which Jesus came. He was to spend His short life within a very small geographical area, but the whole world needed to know what He was to do, for He came to be the Savior of that entire world. In order for this to happen, there were certain things that were almost essential, which were contributed by the developments of political history just preceding His coming.

A. If the story of Jesus is to be told, and is to be told in the light of Old Testament prophecies, there must be a language in and through which it can be carried. Alexander the Great launched a program of conquest so successful and so far-reaching that at the age of thirty-three the Greek language was understood and used in much of the known world. Wherever Alexander and his armies went, they carried the language in which the New Testament was to be written—the Greek language. In 330 B.C., seventy-two scholars translated the Hebrew writings of the Old Testament into Greek. It is this translation from original Hebrew that the writers of the New Testament used in their work.

B. The world of the first century was more closely united than it had ever been before. Not only must there be a language, but there must be means of communication if this story is to reach those whom it is intended. Here the Romans were to make their contribution. The Roman Empire gave to the world the best highways it had ever known. When the early Christians were scattered abroad and went everywhere preaching the Word, they traveled by means of these same highways provided by the Roman government.

A second thing the Romans provided was the finest postal system the world had known up to that time. Paul's letters and the letters to the

seven churches may not have traveled as rapidly as mail does now but at a much faster pace than in any generation before that time.

C. There also had been the dispersion of the Jews from their land of Palestine. The captives of Israel and Judah had been used of the Lord in carrying out this preparation for the fullness of the time to come. Everywhere they went, they carried with them the hope and expectation of the coming Messiah—and they let it be known that they were looking for this one to come. We cannot afford to overlook in this connection the conquest of Babylon by the Persians while Judah was in Babylon. For many reasons, this is significant— suffice it to say here that the Persians were monotheistic—worshippers of one Supreme Being. The worship of Zoroaster was this type religion—Hammurabi who lived about the time of Abraham had given a set of laws in many ways similar to the Ten Commandments. The Persians were most sympathetic in spirit with these Hebrews who like themselves worshipped one God. In their religion we are told there was also the hope of a Messiah King who one day would come and do great things.

D. The world was at peace. At least, this was outwardly true. For the first time in many years the doors in the Temple of Janus in Rome were closed. While it must be recognized that this outward peace was enforced by armies of occupation hated by the conquered peoples who were helpless to do anything about it, yet these conditions facilitated the spread of the Gospel from place to place. The early Roman policy of indifference to local religions also contributed, for a while, to the growth of Christianity.

But in many ways this peace was a superficial thing. Certainly on a physical and political basis this was true. The misconception of the Jews of the type of Messiah for whom they were looking was helped by the superficiality, for they were anxious

for a conqueror to come and break the yoke of Roman bondage and restore the kingdom as it was in the days of David and Solomon.

Philosophy brought no lasting satisfaction to even those who knew most about the philosophers and their teachings, so it was that men in Athens loved to gather in Athens to see if they could not hear some new things.

Pleasures were not bringing the satisfaction that people were looking for. Even religion was not able to satisfy. For some it brought only fear that they might displease some God they had not known, so they must erect a statue to "The unknown God." The religion of the temples and the synagogues was shallow and meaningless, in many instances, offering no hope even to the nation of Israel itself, to say nothing of the people who must look to Israel to find God if they were to find Him at all. God was busy, even then, disturbing the hearts of men that they might find no satisfaction save they find it in Jesus Christ. He was truly preparing the world for Jesus and, when that time was fully prepared, when the time was right, Jesus came.

II. God Prepared The Heredity of the Messiah

In Hebrews 10:5 we read, "A body hast Thou prepared Me." The Messiah must identify Himself with humanity. So it was that God prepared Him a body. He was to be born of a woman—a particular family—the setting up and developing of this family required years, even centuries.

The first promise is in Genesis 3:15 where God said to the serpent, "Her seed shall bruise thy head." "By one man came sin into the world, and death by sin, so by one MAN must come righteousness and life through Him." God said that the Messiah, the Savior would come into the world through human birth.

God took the second step in this in the call of Abraham whom He used to establish His nation of chosen ones and said to him, "In thee shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." Now God has made selection of the nation out of which Messiah is to come.

The next step is to be seen in the selection of the family lineage. As he came to the close of his life, the aged Jacob in blessing his children said, "The scepter shall not depart from Judah until Shiloh come." This is the third prophetic step the Lord God took in providing the particular family for His Messiah.

Of all the descendants of Judah, God specified to David that there would not fail him: a man on the throne of Judah. In all these things we see how carefully God planned the birth of His Son into the human family.

Isaiah is the next to speak the message of the Lord in regard to the coming of Messiah. "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His Name Immanuel." As we read these words, we need to look further at Luke 1:26-27, "Gabriel sent from God to a virgin espoused to a man named Joseph." His mission was to tell her that she was to bear the long-looked-for Messiah.

One more step in the prophetic line we need to see. God has gone to tremendous detail to work out the exact family lineage of the Messiah—now, in the writing of Micah, we find the place of birth designated. "But thou, Bethlehem, Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel." Here the Lord announced seven hundred years before it happened even the place where the birth would take place.

In this connection, there arises a problem—the virgin and Joseph did not live in Bethlehem, but in Nazareth. How then was this prophecy to be fulfilled? God has the answer, "There went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed, and all went to be taxed, every man unto his own city. And Joseph also went up from Nazareth unto the city of David which is called Bethlehem because he was of the house and lineage of David to be taxed, with Mary, his espoused wife." (Luke 2:1-5). Was it an accident that Augustus published his decree just at this time? Human reasoning might say that this just happened, but is this not a part of God's getting the world ready, even to the minutest detail? Augustus had no idea of helping God accomplish His eternal purpose, but God knew this would happen as it did, even the wrath of man is made to praise Him.

III. God Prepared for the Reception of the Message of Announcement From the Gospel writers, Matthew and Luke, we learn that the announcement of the birth of the Messiah came to two separate and distinct groups of people. Matthew speaks of the Magi, while Luke deals with the shepherds. God suited the announcements to each of these in terms of meaningfulness to the particular involved.

Luke brings to us what is the only real story of the actual birth of Jesus at the exact time of its happening. Verse seven describes the crowded, bustling conditions within Bethlehem and verse eight deals with the calm on the near-by hillsides. It is in the latter scene that the announcement is made—to Jewish shepherds by an angel. We need never forget that they were Jewish and that the Jews, for the most part, had a fixed belief in angels and their ministry. The same star visible in a distant land no doubt was visible to these shepherds also, but stars had little or no special meaning for these men. It may have been noticed, and its brightness may have drawn speculation on their part, but nothing more than this.

Their reaction to the angel was quite normal, but, when their fears had been calmed, they were ready for what he had to say and to act upon it to the best of their ability. So it is that to simple and possible uneducated people God speaks His great message in understandable terms.

In lands far to the East the wise men received the announcement of the birth also, but in that setting, it was not through the hearing of angels, but the seeing of an unusual star in the sky. From what country did these men come? While the Scripture does not designate by name, there is ample ground for believing that it may have been Persia. We have called attention to the fact that the captivity of Judah was partially under Persia; that the captives carried with them the dream of a coming Messiah; that the Persians were monotheistic in their worship; that they also looked for a Messiah in their religious teaching; and that the Jews were well treated by these people. Add to this the fact that they majored on astro-

logy. In every unusual happening in the heavens, they read some great significance.

"They saw this star! They saw in the appearance of the star the birth of One who was a King. They remembered that the captive Jews had been looking for a Messiah, so they started for Palestine. Now the Scripture does not say that the star went before them to Jerusalem, but it seems to have reappeared to them after leaving Herod's palace. Their coming to Jerusalem and to Herod's palace are perfectly normal acts of men looking for a new-born king.

IV. God Prepared His Son God also began in the very councils of eternity to prepare, not only these things, but even His own Son for the momentous experience He will undergo.

In Revelation 13:8, we read that He is the Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world. God spoke a world into being, but before this happened, He ordained Calvary as a necessary experience in His dealings with men. Peter said on the Day of Pentecost that men took with wicked hands and slew One who had been delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God. Calvary then was no accident or afterthought on the part of God.

God prepared for His entrance into the world into which He came through the normal channel of human birth. He could have come sweeping in startling fashion through the skies; they looked for Him to come at the head of an army in triumph; but He was made of a woman. He was and is the Divine Son of God, but He was also the human Savior, that He might be tempted in all points like as we are.

He was made under the law. He was subject to every requirement the law laid down, even though He was its author. This, in order that, while He was tempted in all points like as we are, He was yet without sin and so He was an acceptable and suitable sacrifice for your sins and mine.

There was a Divine purpose in this—that He might redeem us who were under the law (we who have not been able to keep that law) and that we might receive the adoptions of sons. "To as many as received Him gave He the right to become the sons of God even to them that believe on His Name."

"Are you ready for Christmas? If your Christmas does not have Christ; and does not have Him first, then you are not truly ready for Christmas whatever else you may have gotten done. God's time schedule always works. Just as surely as He came in the fullness of time the first time, He is coming again; and that, too, will be "In the fullness of time." Where only a few saw Him the first time He came, then every eye shall see Him. Will you be ready?

A team of doctors at a Hamburg University made a study of a group of five percent of the clinic's heart attack patients. These patients (218 males and 35 females) were all under 45 years of age—one only 19. Very few of them showed any signs of high cholesterol, diabetes or high blood pressure—all causes of heart attacks. However, it was observed that all but four of the 253 patients were heavy cigarette smokers.

His Star In The East

Behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and have come to worship him. Matthew 2:1-2

I Remember Papa At Christmas

By Sara Whitten

It was but a few days until Christmas. The big old house was so quiet that I was half afraid of my shadow. I don't know why I took out my battered billfold and poured out the loose change, but I made neat stacks of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters on the foot of my bed.

Then I started crying, although I had been taught as a child not to cry even in pain, because my brothers would call me a "cry baby."

Why, then, was I crying? You may understand when I tell you that a certain childhood memory of sixty years ago crowded back above all others. It was a time when my preacher father came in from one of his rural churches. From his pocket he took out an old gray, flabby purse—the kind that folds in the center to fit the pocket. Pouring out the jingling contents on the bed, he made neat stacks of pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters—all less than five dollars.

"Papa," said I, "Would you give me just one nickel or one dime?" I shall never forget the sad expression on his face. He said, "Honey, I would love to, but I have to pay taxes and you children need shoes and warm clothes."

I relieved Papa's sadness as he denied me the wish. Now you know why I cried.

Right before Christmas Papa gave us a quarter apiece, and he went with us at night as we walked Court Square in Kosciusko, Mississippi, looking at the gifts and trying to decide how we would spend the quarter. Then in the stocking on Christmas morning, there was a bulging apple, an orange, nuts, and a bunch of raisins, spilling over the top.

I do not cry now. Papa gave us everything in the world more valuable than money. For forty years he denied himself, took up his cross and followed after the Christ of Christmas.

(NOTE) Miss Sara Whitten, retired school teacher, lives in Ackerman. In the above article she was remembering her father, Rev. H. M. Whitten, who was pastor of dozens of country churches in at least four counties in central Mississippi. Miss Whitten is the aunt of Charles Whitten, missionary to Spain.)

AND IT CAME TO PASS, as the Angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger (Luke 2:15, 16).—RNS PHOTO

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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

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Quiet Talks ON RELIGION IN LIFE

CHESTER E. SWOR

Christmas Through A Decade

This is the last Christmas of the sixties. A new decade begins within a few days. As we have pondered on the meaning of this glorious season as it comes once again, we began to think of the other Christmas periods of the decade that is ending. This caused us to turn back to see what we had written on those occasions each year. As we reread them, we found ourselves wanting to repeat some of the things which we have said during the era. Here, then, are excerpts from editorials which appeared in the Baptist Record each year during the sixties.

1960

"Christmas has come again even in the midst of the trouble and sorrow which seem to fill the earth. World leaders frantically are seeking ways of peace, while the threat of atomic war and extinction overshadows the mankind. Revolution and unrest grip many areas. Forces that would take away liberty are constantly at work. Fear and uncertainty grip the hearts of men. Every newscast seems to tell of more tragedy. Yet, in the midst of all this, comes Christmas with love and hope.

1961

What... is the meaning of Christmas? Christmas means Christ! This is the true explanation of Christmas, the reason for Christmas, the significance of Christmas, the importance of Christmas, and the purpose of Christmas! Without this, we had as well mark the day off the calendar, for all else is simply clatter and clanging. Jesus Christ is the meaning of Christmas! May all of us keep him at the center of all we do in this Christmas time!

1962

Around the world next week bells will peal out the glad tidings of the Saviour's birth. For many centuries bells have been used to proclaim the glorious message of Christmas. In almost every country where Christmas is observed, the ringing of the bells has some special significance in this holy celebration. Once more we hear the bells of Christmas ringing out the glad news that "Christ the Saviour is born." In this Christmas season may we not allow the sound of the bells to be drowned out... in our homes, in the churches, in the busy marts, and wherever we may be this glad season, let us look up and listen! The bells are ringing! God has given the world its most glorious season, Christmas!

1963

"Keep Christ in Christmas!" We often hear this plea in these busy days, and well we should for it is right, and it is needed. There are many who would crowd Christ completely out of Christmas, and make it nothing more than a pagan festival.

However, when all the rush and clatter and tinsel of the modern Christmas celebration are pressed aside, and the season's true meaning is sought, it is found that Christ is still there at the center. Actually, Christmas means Christ. When Christ is forgotten in the Christmas celebration, it becomes something else. Only when Christ is recognized can there be a true Christmas.

1964

Christmas is perhaps the most glorious and most beloved season of the year, whether its true meaning is considered, or one merely sees the outward symbols. Not for one moment would we want to eliminate family gatherings, friendly greetings, warm hearts, happy faces, and joyous children. How could one want to do away with the sparkling decorations, shining trees, colorful gifts, ringing bells, lovely carols, and all of the other happy experiences of the Christmas? A fringe they may be to the true meaning of Christmas, and little more than tinsel when one considers the true meaning of the season, but a part of the Christmas they are, and they help make it a glad time for all. Of course, all of us object to some of the things which have intruded into Christmas, such as drunken Christmas celebrations, carnage on the highways, and such. These are no real part of the Christmas season, and certainly should be eliminated.

Yet in all that is good and wonderful of the Christmas time, and there are many such things, one great fact is at the center and it, above all else, makes this a glorious time. The center of

Christmas is a Child... the Son of God, come to earth.

1965

It is such a simple story. An obscure village in a far away land, a peasant mother and a newborn babe, a frantic husband finding only a stable as a resting place for his tired wife, shepherds in the fields hearing angelic hosts, and wise men, bearing gifts, following a special star.

Put it all together and it makes the most wonderful story ever told. And now the season for its retelling has come again.

Christmas has the only answer for man's deepest and greatest problems.

Men desperately need to know the God who came down to earth to walk among men, and provide redemption for men, on that first Christmas day.

Mankind has no hope, other than that hope born on that day so long ago.

The world does need the Christmas message.

1966

Christmas began with giving! Without the first gift there would have been no Christmas!

Giving is one of the most meaningful customs of the Christmas observance, but it is not of recent origin. It began in Bethlehem.

The first giver was God. The first gift was the most precious and the most costly the world ever has known. That gift was God's own Son. All other customs and activities and experiences of Christmas are meaningless without this. Consider this gift carefully, and all others will fade into insignificance. Learn the truth of this gift and Christmas becomes glorious indeed.

1967

Christmas is here! All the world where the influence of the Christian message has come is aglow with the glory of the Christmas celebration.

Why has this message (of Christmas) changed history and brought worldwide celebration, year after year, century after century? Perhaps Isaiah the prophet has summarized it in his prophecy (Isaiah 9:2) "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." Matthew 4:16 says that this prophecy was fulfilled in the coming of Christ. There was darkness in Isaiah's day and that darkness had become even darker in the hour when Christ came to earth. Darkness still is in the world, for even in our enlightened day, political darkness, moral darkness, and, especially spiritual darkness, is everywhere. Darkness!

Then the light burst forth! The glory of the Lord filled the gloom. The coming of the baby to Bethlehem's manger fulfilled prophecy. That explains the reason for Christmas.

1968

Christ was born on Christmas day! It was a day that changed the world.

Without Christ Christmas is little more than a pagan festival. Without his coming the Old Testament would be a meaningless religious book, and the New Testament would not have been written.

Without Jesus Christ there would be no Christianity, with all that it brought to this sad, dark, sinful world. Without the coming of Christ there would be no church, no preaching, and no message of life and hope.

Without Christ's coming on that first Christmas day, the world would not know the full meaning of love, freedom, moral character, and respect for fellowmen. Nor would it have all the institutions Christianity has given to mankind.

Without Christ's coming the grave would be an enigma, death a terror, life a hopeless quest, and eternal redemption only a meaningless dream.

But Christ did come! And Christmas comes again to remind us of these glorious truths.

1969

This is Christmas as we have seen it through the '60's, and every one of these statements, and all else that was included with them, can be said again at Christmas time, 1969. Never did the world more need for Christmas to come and for its true meaning to be understood.

We pray that all of you may have a glorious, Christian Christmas, that will prepare your life for the new decade which is just ahead.



NEWEST BOOKS

PROPHETS WITH PENS by Pres-nail H. Wood and Floyd W. Thatcher (Baptist Standard Publishing Co., Dallas, 158 pp., \$4.25)

A history of the Baptist Standard, the official journal of the Texas Baptist Convention. It is really the story of ten men who have edited the paper and guided its destiny, so that it has become one of the most widely circulated religious news magazines in the world, but as the story of these men unfolds, the story of Texas Baptists in the period from 1892 to 1969 is told. These editors have been men of different personality, from the colorful, J. B. Crabill the first editor, to the present, able, professionally trained, John J. Hurt. Among other editors were the two Gambrells, Dr. J. B. Grambell, who earlier had been first editor of the Baptist Record, and his brother, J. H.; J. Frank Norris, later famous as a critic of the Southern Baptist Convention and leader of fundamentalism; E. C. Routh, who later went to the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger; plain spoken E. S. James, and others. Each of these men was a leader in his own right, and the story of how they built a great publication, and helped build Texas Baptist work is thrilling to read. As one moves through these chapters he senses the place that the printed page has in Baptist life and ministry.

THE GRACE OF GOD IN GENESIS by O.M. Stallings (O.M. Stallings, 1831 Duncan, Conway, Arkansas, 72032, 86 pages, paper, \$2.00)

A respected and beloved elderly pastor in Arkansas, writes a brief commentary on the first book of the Bible. The general outline is in three parts, Prologue, Genesis of the Book, and Gists of the Chapters. The author believes that Genesis was inspired of God. He says, concerning the creation record, "I prefer the 'Story of Genesis' to the 'Theory of Darwin.'" "Also I prefer Moses over Darwin since he was much closer to the subject than Darwin at the time of the writings." The author makes no attempt to present a scholarly discourse, although he reveals his knowledge of what the scholars are saying and have said, but he seeks to simplify the great truths so that the average person can grasp and understand them. His summaries of sections and chapters are most helpful, and when the reader has finished the book he will know that he has seen the hand of God and the Grace of God in human affairs.

PLAIN TALK ON JAMES by Manfred George Gutzke (Zondervan, 189 pp., paper, \$1.95)

This outstanding Presbyterian preacher, Bible teacher and radio preacher, presents another in his series of "Plain Talk" volumes on books of the New Testament. We presume that these talks first were presented on the radio, since they are simply in language, and direct in application, so that a general audience would understand and appreciate them. Here are fifty messages which deal with every verse or paragraph of verses, and thus with every subject in this New Testament letter. The author accepts the Bible as the word of God, and writes on that basis. This will be a most helpful volume for those who will be teaching James in January.

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON ANNUAL, 1970 edited by Horace R. Weaver, with lesson analysis by Charles M. Laymon (Abingdon, 447 pp., \$3.75)

This comprehensive commentary uses both King James and Revised Standard Versions of the Bible. In the introduction to each Sunday's lesson, "The Main Question" presents the issue to be studied. In "As You Read the Scripture," a biblical scholar explains special meanings in the Bible text. Application of the Bible text to today's life follows, with a penetrating analysis. Step-by-step plans for the teacher and class are provided for each lesson. Special detailed

notes accompany all line drawings, each of which has a particular educational message. Other helps include an index of Scripture and a subject index.

THE PROPHECIES OF DANIEL by rhy Lehman Strauss (Loizeaux Bros., 382 pp., \$4.95)

The author is a widely known Baptist Bible teacher, author and Conference speaker, who formerly pastored two great churches in the north. He is author of several Commentaries on Books in the Bible, including Galatians and Ephesians, Philippians, Revelation and others. He spends little time with historical problems raised by liberals, but accepting the book as the inspired revelation of God through Daniel, goes directly into its glorious truths. There is a delightful use of alliteration which makes study easy, but there is real depth of Bible knowledge and historical understanding there. Those who have been led to believe that the book of Daniel is a forgery, written many years after Daniel's death, will find in these pages truths which will sweep away such lies, and open the sincere Bible student's eyes, to what God revealed through his servant Daniel. One cannot read these pages without wanting to preach the truths he has found, but also he will be amazed and stirred by the prophetic truth unfolded. We recommend a wide use of and a careful study of the book.



The Song Of The Heart

By Charles Myers, pastor
Alta Woods, Jackson

Music has been called the universal language of mankind and surely it is. Man everywhere under every conceivable circumstance has made music a part of his life. The type of life he lives and the circumstances to which he is subjected usually determines the type of music he produces. The spiritual that came out of the South reflect the conditions of the Negro at this stage of history. The mournful tunes along with words of hope indicated his conditions of servitude and his hope for a better way of life. The Western music is characterized by the loneliness of the cowboy in the broad expanse of the prairies. Jazz reveals the carefree effort to throw off restraint and find happiness in movement. Country music reveals the customs of people who lived away from the city and who depended directly upon what the earth could produce. Each of these types of music is distinctive and the style is determined by the background out of which it comes. The music reflects the life that produced it.

There is probably no movement in which music has played so vital a part as it has in Christianity. The birth of Christ was announced by an angelic chorus. The psalms were a part of his life and ministry. Some of the greatest music ever written has been religious music and is the direct result of some individual's encounter with God. There is hardly ever a meeting of a Christian group that music is not used. And music is considered vital to any worship service.

The Bible also speaks of music as a part of heaven. There are those who feel this is figurative language but even if it is it shows the high esteem in which music is held by God. The whole Christian movement from the birth of Christ until the final consummation in heaven has music as a part of it. The fact that music is a part of Christianity and that the Christian movement has produced some of the world's greatest music indicates that

Down through the centuries of Christian history, writers and speakers have condemned the inn keeper of Bethlehem for making no room for Joseph and Mary, whose need for privacy must have been unmistakably evident. In a smug sense of superiority so many have said, "I would not have acted as the inn keeper did!" Are you sure you wouldn't have acted as he did... in the light of the place you are assigning to Christ in your heart now?

Some obvious reasons for there being no room for Joseph and Mary and the Christ child in the inn are these:

1. The inn was not large enough; it couldn't accommodate Christ and the crowd.
2. Materialism was the determining factor: the inn keeper probably suspected that more opulent guests could pay more for rooms than could the Nazareth couple; so, why should he turn out the better paying guests for these peasants? he probably reasoned.
3. The inn keeper was selfish. He could have relinquished his own quarters without loss of income; yet, that would have been inconvenient and uncomfortable for him!
4. Neither he nor his guests realized that the child to be born was the long-promised Messiah. Had he or they recognized this, comfortable arrangements would have been made, doubtless.

"But, surely, the Messiah would be born in a palace, not a simple inn!"

Nearly two thousand years later, you and I know that the Babe of Bethlehem is the Christ; therefore, our not assigning him the place in our hearts and lives worthy of his recognized being is infinitely more to be condemned than the action of the long-ago inn keeper!

Some of us, like the ancient inn keeper, have so filled our hearts with the crowd, that there is little room—or only the outreaches—in our hearts for the Christ. Some of us are so materialistic, that we do constantly whatever seems most profitable, most popular, or most convenient—not what is most pleasing to Christ. Some of us are so selfish, that we have perverted Paul's immortal Philippians 1:21 to read, "For to me to live is me," making all of our decisions on the basis of self, not Christ. No one of us can ever argue, as the inn keeper could argue with honesty, "I do not know who Christ is." We know who he is; and, if we do not assign to him the "Throne Room" of our lives, permitting him a "full run" of every area of our hearts, we are indescribably more culpable than Bethlehem's inn keeper of long ago.

What place in the inn of your heart does Christ occupy?

(Published by special arrangement with Dr. Swor, 902 Whitworth, Jackson, Miss.)

NEW SACRED RECORDS

TIPTOE THROUGH THE TITHERS by Dan McBride (CHM RECORDINGS CHM 58)

An unusual record by a Baptist baritone with his guitar, who sings with humor satire and familiar tunes about Southern Baptists and their work. All of his fun is in good taste, and Mr. McBride has become a favorite entertainer at Baptist gatherings far beyond his state of Texas. Recently he spoke at the state Baptist men's meeting in Jackson. This record will bring much enjoyment and will be played over and over as people listen to "My Sunday School Pin," and many other delightful numbers. You won't want to miss this record.

CRUSADE OF THE AMERICAS (CHM Recordings CHM 60 Stereo)

The Crusade of the Americas is over, but the memory and power of it will live on in this record which presents the music sound track from the Crusade nationwide broadcasts which featured Billy Graham and Paul Harvey. Here is a fitting memento of the Crusade.

BASIC LEARNING TECHNIQUES (Broadman 444-001)

A teaching album—two record. Deals with Getting Ready to Learn, Settings for Learning, Learning Goals, Principles, Training Sessions and Motivations. A valuable tool for use in training leadership in the church. Material prepared by Leroy Ford, professor at Southwestern Seminary.

MY CATHEDRAL—Jim Reeves (RCA Victor LPM LSP 3903)

A soloist who has been heard around the world, sings songs which have been requested from listeners around the world.

SAMMY POOLE IN GOD'S COUNTRY (Chart Records, CHM, CHS 1003)

A native of Georgia, Sammy Poole has sung across America and in South America. His rich voice is accompanied by his guitar.

THE BEST SACRED SONGS—1969 (Word, WST 8502 LP)

Word Records chooses the best from such artists as Bill Mann, Jim Roberts, Ray Hildebran, the Ralph Carmichael Orchestra, Gregg Loren, the Morning Chapel Hour Trio, The Reflection, and others. An unusual selection, but rewarding.

MESSAGES IN MELODY as sung by Lowell Leistner (Heart Warming Records LPHF 1725)

The widely known song leader and soloist of the E. J. Daniels Evangelistic Team brings together some of his most beloved numbers. Many Mississippians have heard him in the canvass cathedral. Here you can hear him in your home again and again.

I BELIEVE, I BELIEVE, I BELIEVE—George Beverly Shea (RCA Victor LSP 4208). **IVORY PALACES**—George Beverly Shea (RCA Camden CAL 3414)

Who could introduce the world's most beloved singer. Here he adds two more great albums to the many more he already has released.

IN TIMES LIKE THESE—Dr. Tal D. Bonham and Bette Stalnaker (Americana, LPMS 2014)

The pastor of South Side Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, Ark., presents four brief devotional messages on man's need of God. The messages are interspersed with messages from the beautiful contralto voice of Bette Stalnaker.

JIM DAVIS ACCOMPANIED BY THE BISNETTES OF OKLAHOMA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY (CHM 43 Stereo)

A singing missionary in the SBC, Jim Davis is regularly featured with the Baptist Hour Choir. In this outstanding record he is accompanied by the Bissettes. James Woodward, Chairman of the Church Music Dept at OBU calls this album "Exciting."

WESLEY TUTTLE SINGS (Sacred LPS 74053)

Includes this well known singer's famous "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" and other unusual numbers.

ABIDE WITH ME—Fred Lowery (Word, WST 8456 LP)

A blind whistling artist who can whistle two notes at once, presents gospel songs in an unusual manner... accompanied by an artist at the piano. A most unusual yet refreshing album.

JOE FEENY SINGS FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE (RCA Victor LPM, LSP 3850)

A featured tenor with the Lawrence Welk Show sings the divine message.

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"Christmas in Zambia" was painted by Emmanuel Nsama who used as his "models" his own home, wife, and new son. (RNS Photo)



Christmas in Japan — The costumes, the colors, the settings may differ, but the story is the same. (RNS Photo)



Christmas in Scandinavia — Sheaves of wheat are placed in trees to feed the birds. (RNS Photo)



Christmas in Nazareth — Visitors gather from all over the world. (Israel Government Photo)



Christmas in Austria. (Augsburg Photo)



Christmas in Argentina. (Kerygma Features Photo)



Christmas in Rome — Shoppers stroll on the Via Frattina under a canopy of Christmas lights. (RNS Photo)



Christmas in America — A choir sings carols at the base of the Nation's Christmas Tree. (RNS Photo)

Christmas Everywhere

Christmas in lands of the fir-tree and pine,
Christmas in lands of the palm-tree and vine,
Christmas where snow-peaks stand solemn and white,
Christmas where cornfields lie sunny and bright,
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas to-night!

Christmas where children are hopeful and gay,
Christmas where old men are patient and gray,
Christmas where peace, like a dove in its flight,
Broods o'er brave men in the thick of the fight,
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!

For the Christ-child who comes is the Master of all,
No palace too great and no cottage too small;
The angels who welcome Him sing from the height,
"In the City of David, a King in His might."
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas to-night!

Then let every heart keep its Christmas within,
Christ's pity for sorrow, Christ's hatred for sin,
Christ's care for the weakest, Christ's courage for right,
Christ's dread of the darkness, Christ's love of the light,
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas to-night!

So the stars of the midnight which compass us around
Shall see a strange glory, and hear a sweet sound,
And cry, "Look! the earth is aflame with delight,
O sons of the morning, rejoice at the sight."
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas to-night!

—Phillips Brooks

"Tomorrow's Ark" To Be Built Of Faith, Obedience, Love, Hope

By Dr. Joe H. Tuten, pastor,
Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson

"And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is corpe before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood" (Genesis 6:13-14a).

The sermon which I preach this morning is fire in my own bones, but the title idea is borrowed with notice from a friend.

In the long ago, the people of Earth became very, very sinful. Earth would have to be destroyed, not because God had lost his compassion and love for mankind, but because man had closed his heart against God. He could no longer communicate with man. God could no longer do anything with man.

It seemed the whole Earth was devoid of faith, but as God looked he saw a flutter of faith in the life of one man. That was enough. He could work with that. Life on Earth would not be destroyed completely and absolutely. God would work through this one man with whom he was able to communicate and from whom he was able to gain some response. That man was Noah. God told him to build an ark, because the Earth would be destroyed by water. Noah heard and obeyed. The ark was built.

When the ark was completed, this man brought his wife, his three sons and their wives, various kinds of animal life, various kinds of plant and seed into the ark. God closed the door. The rains began to fall, the fountains of the deep were broken open and the Earth was covered with water. Archaeology gives confirmation of such a great flood.

Through this one man life on this planet was spared and continued. Through faith this man saved his own life, saved his family and perpetuated life on Earth.

OUR SINS—OUR PROBLEMS

Perhaps no generation is able to measure very accurately or satisfactorily its moral strength and weakness. Perhaps we do not have the ability to compare ourselves very objectively with other generations. But thoughtful men from many parts of the world have been telling us for decades now that we are in trouble. They have warned that our world is in bad condition and that our nation has drifted far from the moral and ethical teachings of God.

Our sins today are very great, and our problems are many. Let me speak briefly of some and, then, more extensively of others.

WAR

It has become too dangerous to have wars, but man does not know how to stop them. We have had three full decades of war. Our youth have spent their entire life in the terrible fear and uncertainty of the cold war. And, now, we are locked in the longest war in the history of our country.

POVERTY

Some leaders in our country who ought to know repeatedly tell us that poverty is quite widespread in our na-

tion and that much actual hunger exists. Others equally capable of knowing declare this is not true. And I honestly do not know. But I know how my heart has been gripped when hearing the statement that "half the world went to bed hungry last night." And I feel as I think you do, namely, that if I know someone who is hungry I want to help give him bread I want to help give him bread to eat. There must be some problem of hunger in our nation, and there certainly is a problem of poverty.

ATTITUDE TOWARD WORK

We have forgotten that one of man's truly great blessings is the privilege of work. God has made us with the wonderful capacity to visualize, undertake and accomplish; yet work is dreaded and avoided. God must have intended that work should span the whole of life. Retirement is a blight to the old, and false standards of prestige are a curse to the young. Youth are forced as misfits into college and the professions by superficial status symbols, while the trades are denied their excited interest and true talent. Some young professional men in Jackson are living at starvation's door, while other young men working with their hands in carpentry, electrical and mechanical fields are earning in excess of ten thousand dollars per year. The false pride of parents or wife can cause a man to hate the very endeavor by which he earns his bread. We are mixed up about work.

ANTQUATED GOVERNMENT

Our religion has a history of negativism toward centralized government. There is a reason for this. A strong national government kicked our teeth out a hundred years ago, and we have not gotten over it. But honesty compels me to express the opinion that it is in the area of local government that the greatest need for improvement exists. We are still living with city, county and state government which was designed literally for the horse and buggy age, and we have not faced up to the need of updating our antiquated system of government. Our governor is to be commended for his announcement last week that a study commission composed of outstanding business executives is being formed to consider overlapping and management problems of the many departments of state government.

TECHNOLOGY

The rapid advances in technology and the sophistication required in specialized efforts are throwing much of society out of kilter. This is dramatized in the fact that we can send three men from Florida to the Moon faster than we can send a one-page letter from Mississippi to California.

SCHOOLS

One of our great problems and the one which has prompted me to preach this sermon today is the problem of our schools.

We are faced in the immediate future with tremendous changes in public education. The courts have become very deeply involved in operating public schools, more than they ever wish, is my guess. But decisions have been ordered, and changes are here. Those who look for delay will look in vain. The head of our public schools in the city of Jackson has reported that many faculty members will be assigned to other schools in January. He has indicated that the faculty of each school will be approximately sixty percent white and forty percent Negro.

The children will be transferred in substantial numbers to similarly integrated schools next September. More sudden change is faced in the schools of Hinds County, because both faculty and children will be transferred in large numbers in January.

These changes are going to be difficult and discouraging. Perhaps no one can realize the full measure of hardship which will be imposed upon individual families, the stress which will be placed upon teachers, or the extent to which public education is going to be damaged. It will be greater than most of us can see.

But, let me say some things in this area.

There are those who are suggesting that the establishment of private schools is the best answer to this problem. One thing which concerns me is the fear that some political leaders will advocate this as a program of hope, when, in my judgement, it holds no hope as an educational system for the masses. However good were their intentions, we have been headed down enough dead end roads by leaders who should have known better because politics and government were their business.

We are living in a state where the economy has made it difficult for us to support adequately a public school system. The rafters shook two years ago when the Governor and sympathetic legislature levied additional taxes to upgrade the salaries of teachers to a level nearer that being paid in adjacent states. Some families will be able to send their children to private schools. Many family budgets can not stand the costs. Can you take at least five hundred dollars per year out of your family income to send each of your children to school? Can you do this year after year? Only the children of the rich and near rich will be able to go to private schools. I believe the establishment of private schools for the masses is a false hope of first magnitude.

Another thing! It is always easier to look back than it is to look ahead. I repeat, hindsight is easier than foresight for all of us. You were very kind to me five years ago when as a trustee of one of our denominational schools I voted to sign the compliance form required by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, knowing clearly it would mean the admission of Negro students. I did what I thought was wise, what I thought was good.

You were kind to me. I say! But, looking back, and considering the condition which faces our children now, oh! how I wish we had begun accepting Negro students twenty years ago and educating them to be teachers! Our children will pay the price because we as adults did not have the insight and strength to chart a wiser and nobler course.

Public education in our state needs more support, encouragement and good will now than it has needed in perhaps fifty years.

Strife within our land

In the long ago, when God looked down, he saw that the Earth was filled with violence. What does he see now? Strife, division and violence seem to fill the Earth again.

I recall a statement made by Mr. Nixon during the last presidential campaign. It caught my attention quickly, yet I admit that I did not comprehend the significance of his

statement. He said it was important that the campaign should be conducted in such a way that whomever was elected president would be able to govern. Taken as a responsible statement, this is frightening.

And, now, thoughtful men, are asking the serious question of whether or not this country is still governable. Or, if I may say it another way, they are asking, have we Americans become so steeped in individualism, so hardened in selfishness, so down right mean that nobody can govern us? Is this where we almost are? A study commission which reported to the president two weeks ago predicted that our cities are going to become armed camps. The news of assassinations and pitched, gun battles has rivaled the news of our space accomplishments in this decade of the sizzling sixties. Violence fills our borders. Can this country still be governed by anybody?

Our Church

Our church. There is, along with all of this, the problem our church faces from the very practical standpoint. How can the church live and serve in society today with its doors closed to people of races other than the race of those who presently compose the church? May I make this very simple? Some of our people who have weddings have asked me if they can invite negro friends to their wedding. How am I to answer? We used to have the high school choirs come and sing for us occasionally. What am I supposed to answer when the question arises as to whether or not the choir can come and sing? We can not forever bury in the sand, member of Calvary, and in all kindness, let me say that if you are not a member of Calvary this is not your affair at this point; if you are not a member of Calvary to talk about what Calvary does — but, member of Calvary, we shall not forever be able to push this in the ground without looking at it and facing it and making decisions about it. I do not have the right or authority as you pastor to make decisions in a matter like this.

The problem of pollution is serious and frightening. You and I live because we consume other forms of life. All forms of life, right on down to the bottom of the scale, exist in dependence upon other forms of life. I am told by scientists who should know that right here on our Mississippi Coast certain lower forms of life which are absolutely essential in the support of higher forms of life are rapidly disappearing through the problem of pollution. If these elementary forms of life are destroyed or pass out of existence, scientists absolutely do not know how life can be sustained on this planet Earth.

These are some of the problems we face, problems which so often grow out of our selfishness, greed and pride.

A NEW ARK?

Is it possible, do you suppose, that God is nearing some kind of new venture with reference to planet Earth?

When God could no longer communicate with man, when He could no longer do anything with man and violence filled the Earth, God decided to destroy life on this planet. Are we moving toward such a time again?

Is it possible, do you suppose, that interplanetary travel may have some place in some vast, new venture God may initiate? Where you concerned over the Apollo twelve mission, con-

sidering the phenomenal success we have had in the space program, yet feeling that sooner or later something is going to happen, and one of these space ships may not get back. Is it possible that in our egocentric way we have worried about the wrong end of the thing? Is it possible, do you suppose, that some day out yonder one of these space ships, moving from planet to planet, may start back to an Earth devoid of life, and a space ship may turn out to be an ark by which God perpetuates life in the universe?

I do not know. It may very well be that God is preparing someone to build an ark.

WHO WILL BUILD TOMORROW'S ARK?

First I want to say to you—and it is so elementary that I almost am embarrassed to say it—, but let me say that tomorrow's ark will not be built by the person who built yesterday's ark. If there is to be an ark of tomorrow, it will be built by someone of a today!

I grow weary in y soul with people who want to live in yesterday when this is so obviously impossible.

The ark of tomorrow will not be built by the man who built the other ark, and the problems of today will not be solved by your grandfather.

FAITH

The ark of tomorrow will be built by a person of faith. Faith is the great dynamic of life. It is the fuel of human endeavor. It is the great motivation of the human spirit.

"Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6). It is the person without faith who sits placidly in the midst of life's problems, who neither hears the voice of God nor reaches forth to a better day.

Faith visualizes, undertakes and perseveres. The person who builds tomorrow's ark, like Noah, will be a person of faith in God, and the people who solve today's problems will be the people of faith.

OBEDIENCE TO GOD

The ark of tomorrow will be built by a person obedient to God. Noah obeyed God. He was a preacher of righteousness. He lived by the moral and ethical teachings of Jehovah God. The problems of today are not going to be solved by the people who ignore and ridicule and defy the moral and ethical teachings of God.

The problems are going to be solved by people to whom God can speak a word, and they can hear, and they answer, and they do what he says for them to do.

You children and you young people are worried and disturbed. You are wondering what you are going to do and how you are going to act if you have to go to another school. You do right; you do right! And if you do not know what is right, you get your Bible before you go to school and read the ten commandments over in the twentieth chapter of Exodus. You go to school and study hard and do right and treat people right.

You teachers are concerned, and you are wondering what to do if you are reassigned within a few weeks to another school. You do right! "Shall I quit teaching?" No! Public education needs you, and our children need you. You go, and do the best you can, and teach the best you can. Do not fail! You read the ten commandments and pray, and you do the very best you can. Remember, there are many righteous people in this city who want to do

right and will teach their children at home to do right.

The ark of tomorrow is going to be built by a person who is obedient to God, and the great problems which confront us are going to be solved by people who solve them on the basis of moral and ethical rightness. There is a God in this universe in which we live.

LOVE

The ark of tomorrow is going to be built by a person of love. Hate never solved any problem. Hate eats and kills and destroys from within. Love heals and solves and builds.

Noah was a man of love. He loved everything that had life. It was no problem for Noah to bring his daughters - in law into the ark, because he loved them. It was no problem for Noah to save those animals, because he loved life. Noah never pulled little birds apart! He took care of those plants, because he loved everything that had life. His awe of life was like his reverence of God. He loved and it came from God.

The ark of tomorrow is going to be built by a person of love, and the problems of today are going to be solved by people of love. You will never be doing wrong when out of a heart molded by the Spirit of Christ you are kind and good to another person. You will never be doing wrong when you manifest love to your fellow man.

HOPE

Finally, the ark of tomorrow is going to be built by a person of hope. Hope is the arm which extends the hand through fog and darkness to work on tomorrow's world. Noah hammered away and built the ark in the raw courage and strength of hope.

To talk about a Christian faith and a Christian philosophy without hope is like talking about fire that is not hot or rain that is not wet. The Christian philosophy from beginning to end is essentially one of hope. This was the testimony of Beverly Shea when he sang last night "The Christ of Every Crisis."

Our Gospel is a gospel of hope! If you are facing starvation, go back and read about the widow in the days of Elisha, whose husband was dead, who owned everybody in town and who was completely broke — read how she poured from one little bottle of olive oil until every bottle in the house was full and she paid off every creditor. If you are worried about your son in Viet Nam, go back and read about Gideon and his army of three hundred and know that God has given us a basis of hope. If your wife is sick and the doctors offer you no hope, you go back and read about the woman who had been sick for twelve years until Jesus came, and she touched the hem of his garment, and things changed.

You say it is dark out there. It may be dark, but the Christian faith and the Christian philosophy are a religion and philosophy of hope as we face the future. You will never drag me into the camp where people sit around and moan and wring their hands and wish it was yesterday. God in heaven deliver me from them!

There may be another ark that God is thinking of building, and he may be looking for someone to do it. Who will build it?

It may be you. It will be some one of faith, obedience, love and hope. And the great problems which confront us will find their only solution in faith, obedience and love.



JOHN W. STEEN

Mississippian Is New Editor, Adult Materials

Rev. John Warren Steen, pastor of First Church, Clayton, N. C., has accepted the position of Editor of Adult Materials of the Sunday School Department with the Sunday School Board, SBC. He will begin his new work in Nashville, Tennessee, on January 15, 1970.

His recent writings include the authorship of *Conquering Inner Space*, contributing to *Everyday, Five Minutes with God* and *Is Christ for John Smith?*, all published by Broadman Press. He has written for *Sunday School Married Young People* and *The Young People's Teacher*.

Mrs. Steen, the former Dorothy Jean Liphart, native of Jackson, Miss., was recently elected North Carolina state president of the Baptist Minister's.

The Steens have three children: Warren, 15, Annell, 13, and Lucinda, 10.

Native of Jackson, Miss., he attended Miss. College, and graduated from Baylor University and Southern Seminary. He earned a master of Sacred Theology degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York.



"Her Lengthened Shadow"

PICTURED ARE THE youth of Osyka Church presenting a play on the life of Lottie Moon, "Her Lengthened Shadow." This play was presented as an aid toward reaching the \$800 goal set by the Osyka Church for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. It was presented on December 7, the first day of the fund drive. On that day, \$730.15 was received toward the goal. Left to right are: Becky Ott, Sandra Alger, Katie Ott, David Alan Stewart, Pattie Wilson (Lottie Moon), Donnie Rushing, Vicki Ott, Mary Lou Dickey, Ginger Alger, Betty Jo Dickey, and Charlotte Jackson (not shown). Directing were: WMU President, Mrs. Margaret McNeese; G. A. leaders, Mrs. Brenda Ott; and Mrs. Karlene Morris. Rev. Richard G. Gordon is pastor.

Gulf Coast Man Distributes 45,000 Bibles

The December issue of *Bible Society Record*, published by the American Bible Society, carries a feature article about J. C. Broom of 2106 O'Donnell Boulevard, Gulfport.

Since Hurricane Camille, Mr. Broom, who is blind, has given away over 45,000 Bibles, New Testaments, and Gospels, and has 5,750 more on the way from New York to give away before Christmas, in the nine southernmost counties of Mississippi.

"If you have Bibles, we need them!" was a message broadcast on the radio following Camille. A listener remembered that Mr. Broom distributed copies of the Gospel of John to his neighbors every Saturday, and invited them to attend church. The listener called the station, and they contacted Mr. Broom.

Forty-two-year old John Broom, former U. S. mailman, became a blind two years ago. He became a

Christian in November, 1968. He did have a supply of the Scripture Portion, "Good News by a Man Named John," that he had been handing out at his own expense.

He gave all his own supply, and then sent for another \$100 worth from the American Bible Society, with

Riverside Calls Pastor

RIVERSIDE Church, Money, has called as their new pastor Rev. Marion Holley. Mr. Holley has resigned as pastor of New Hope Church, near Vardaman, in Calhoun County, and he and Mrs. Holley have moved to the new field of service.

Dr. Harry Lee Spencer, Jackson, former executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Foundation, now retired, has served as interim pastor at Riverside since August.

The Riverside Church has a beautiful building situated on the bank of the Tallahatchie River.



"Youngest Missionary"

REBECCA GARVIN seems to be saying, Yes, I'm going to Africa too! She is the three-week-old daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Harry B. Garvin of Fort Worth, Tex., appointed missionaries to Uganda on December 4 by the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va. She is probably the youngest "missionary" ever "appointed," according to Jesse C. Fletcher, director of the board's mission support division. (Photo by Warren Johnson)



Texas Boys' Choir To Sing On ABC-TV

The ABC television network will present the Texas Boys' Choir in "The Mysterious, Magical, Miracle Box," a half-hour Christmas special produced in association with the Southern Baptists' Radio and Television Commission, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Sunday, Dec. 21. Theme of the program is an imaginary trip that takes the viewer around the world, with brief musical stops in many countries.

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Six Mississippians To Graduate From Southwestern

Six students from Mississippi will receive degrees during commencement exercises at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, at 7:30 p. m., December 19. They are, left to right, above: Charles B. Allen, McComb, Master of Church Music Education; Alva R. McCorkle, Houston, Master of Reli-

gious Ed.; Jerry E. File, Gulfport, Master of Divinity; Perry G. Robinson, Ellisville, Master of Church Music; David L. Hamilton, Nebo, Ill., former Mississippian, Master of Religious Education; Marvin G. Lancaster, Raymond, Master of Religious Education.

Taiwan Baptists Sponsor TV Program

A series of 30-minute television programs sponsored by the Taiwan Baptist Radio and Television Studio is being broadcast weekly over a new Chinese television station in Taipei, Taiwan.

These programs, under the title "Wan Fu Lin Men" ("Happiness at the Gate"), consist mainly of films from "The Answer" series produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, which have been dubbed into Mandarin Chinese by staff members of the Taiwan Baptist studio.

Brotherhood

Those who are responsible for planning the Baptist Men's Day program (January 25) will please turn to pages 51-57 in the 1969-70 BROTHERHOOD HANDBOOK in order that you may find the materials, planning a Baptist Men's Day observation, ordinarily included in the Baptist Men's Day packet.

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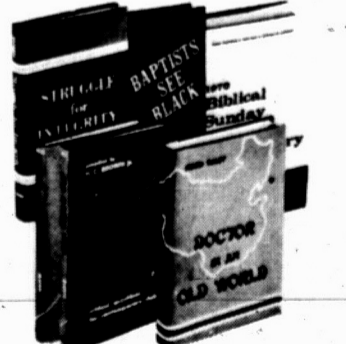
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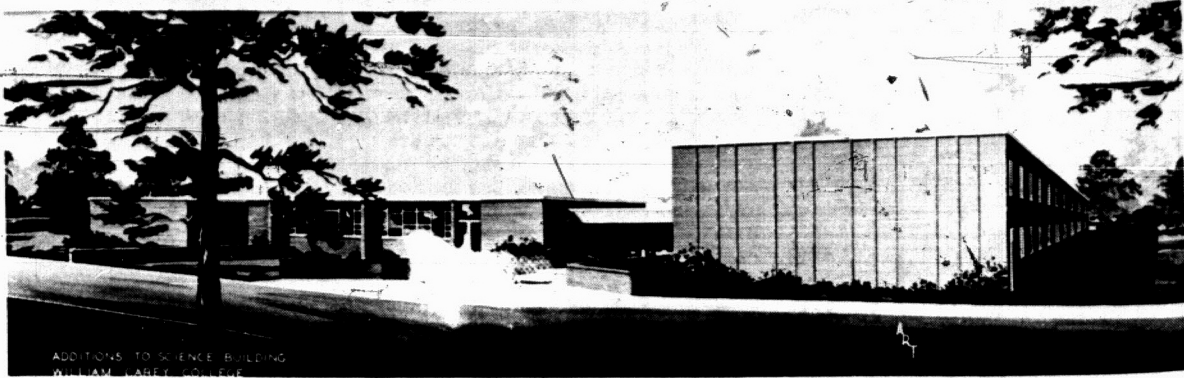
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Carey To Add Wing To Science Hall

William Carey College board of trustees announced on last week the awarding of bids totaling nearly one-half-million dollars to Hattiesburg contractors for the immediate construction of a new large wing to Green Science Hall.

At a banquet on the Carey campus in honor of all the medical doctors and their wives of Hattiesburg plus

the medical staff of Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans, Dr. Ralph Noonkester, president of Carey, announced the decision of the trustees and presented the colored artist's drawing of the proposed building.

The new wing will be much larger than the existing one built some 10 years ago. The hall is named for Ben Green, the late father of Dr. Earl Green of Hattiesburg, Carey trustee. Ben Green, himself, of Leaf, was a long-time trustee and supporter of the college.

Dr. Noonkester said the contracts call for the building to be completed in 300 days. This will be the 14th new building constructed on the Carey campus in the past fourteen days.

Dr. Earl Green and his wife were

given the honor of unveiling the artist's conception of the new building at the dinner. Dr. Green, Dr. Glen Pearson, and Dr. Erskine Ross, Jr., all trustees, were hosts for the occasion.

The recent merging of facilities and curriculum of the Mather School of Nursing in New Orleans with Carey College was the event which prompted the bringing to Hattiesburg the two groups of medical personnel.

"The new science building will not only enhance our new nursing program greatly," commented President Noonkester, "but will add immeasurably to all of the science disciplines of our school."

Dr. David Grunich, head of Carey's biology department, and Mrs. Shirley Morrison, dean of the school of nursing, spoke at the banquet.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON ———— LIFE AND WORK CURRICULUM

God With Us

Behold The Lamb Of God

By Clifton J. Allen
Matthew 1

If we have spiritual insight and feeling, our hearts should quicken as we study this lesson. It tells of the birth of Jesus Christ. Two lines of the hymn come to mind: "Hail to the brightness of Zion's glad morning! Joy to the lands that in darkness have lain!" The incarnation of Christ marked the beginning of the new era in God's plan of the ages. It was a burst of heavenly light into the darkness of the world. For the past several months we have followed the unfolding events in the Old Testament of the story of God and his people. We come now to a new scene in the drama in which God in Christ accomplishes redemption for a lost world. This is more than a Christmas lesson. It is the account of the divine visitation to redeem mankind and to bring salvation to the people of God.

The Lesson Explained
The Genealogy of Jesus
Verse 1

This verse introduces the genealogy of Jesus. It answers in part the question, Who is Jesus Christ? He is identified, as "the son of David, the son of Abraham." God made a covenant promise to Abraham that through his descendants all the nations of the earth would be blessed. The coming of Jesus as the Saviour of the world was the fulfillment of that promise. God promised David that he would raise up one of his sons to reign upon the throne of Israel forever. Jesus was the fulfillment of that promise, as the King of the true Israel forever. Matthew traced Jesus' line from Abraham to Joseph, whom he identified as the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born (v. 16). It was customary to trace legal descent through the father, and this was Matthew's purpose, though he clearly stated that Joseph was not the actual father of Jesus but the foster father of Mary's miraculously begotten son. The genealogy identified Jesus as a person in history, as the fulfillment of covenant promise, and as one designed to make possible the execution of God's intention for all mankind.

Supernatural Birth
Verses 18-21

It was more important to identify Jesus as the Son of God. Matthew records the facts concerning his supernatural birth. Mary was betrothed to Joseph, which established a legal relationship, but they had not become husband and wife. Before they were actually married, Mary was found to be with child. Joseph, faced with the gravest problem, wanted to put Mary away quietly rather than make her the object of shame—because he was righteous and considerate. An angel of the Lord instructed him not to hesitate to take Mary for his wife be-

cause her conception was by the Holy Spirit. The Angel then announced the wondrous fact that she would give birth to a son, to be called Jesus—"Josiah" or "the Lord of salvation"—who would save his people from their sins.

Matthew's account is told from the standpoint of Joseph. But in clearest language we have the fact of divine conception and virgin birth. We have divine revelation and human trust and obedience. We have divine miracle and human instrument. We have an eternal purpose of God fulfilled at a point in time on earth to bring hope and salvation to the world.

God In Flesh
Verses 22-25

Joseph obeyed the angel's command, a testimony to his piety and faith. He lovingly sheltered Mary as his wife and protected her virginity in the fear of the Lord, also a testimony to his piety, compassion, courage, and faith. Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He was thus God in fact, "God with us!" His name "Jesus" stands for a saving mission. It declared him to be the Saviour of the world. The name "Emmanuel" refers to his nature. It declared the fact of his deity. God became manifest in flesh. The birth of Jesus, through the mystery and miracle of the incarnation, was God's thrust of himself into humanity, his identification with the human race, his self-disclosure in a human being, his willingness to empty himself into the form of a man—all that he might bring men to himself through redemption.

Truths to Live By
God did something wonderful. — We do not have understanding or expression for a worthy response to the significance of the birth of Jesus. Through the incarnation, God put into operation a plan conceived in the councils of eternity. He brought to fulfillment something planned from the beginning of time. He gave expression to love without measure and power without limit when he came in Christ to save the world.

Jesus was human and divine.—The incarnation loses its meaning if we forget that it meant a God-man. Both humanity and deity were indispensable for the Saviour.

God is with us now. — There is continuing reality in the meaning of the incarnation. God in Christ became Emmanuel, God with us on earth. He returned to the Father in glory, but he assured us, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

The birth of Jesus merits celebration. — This is the real reason for Christmas.

Ex. 12:21-27 John 1:19-29
Matt. 1:18-25
By Bill Duncan

An artist has painted a picture of Jesus as a young man while he worked in the carpenter shop at Nazareth. Apparently the young man had been busy over the workbench, and walked to the door for a moment of fresh air and to stretch his tired, cramped back muscles. There the artist painted his subject with arms outstretched and dressed in working clothes.



The sun pouring upon his face with arms outstretched cast a glow of a cross upon the ground. The title of the painting — "Behold the Lamb of God."

The last book of the Bible tells us that in the end "all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." This reminds us that Jesus as the Lamb of God was planned from the beginning of time. There never was, and never will be, a time that Jesus as the Lamb will not stand out in the revelation of God.

It is significant that Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem where so many of the lambs and sheep were kept that would make their way to the altar in Jerusalem for sacrifices that the priest would make for the people.

Some have speculated that the shepherds that came to the manger on the night of Jesus' birth, to worship him, were men who kept the Priestly animals. So Jerusalem started on the journey from the cradle of a stall to the cross like so many other sacrificial animals. Only Jesus would be the one to make the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. The animals could not make full and final atonement, but Jesus willingly became our sacrifice.

The Lamb of God Foretold
Ex. 12:21 - 27

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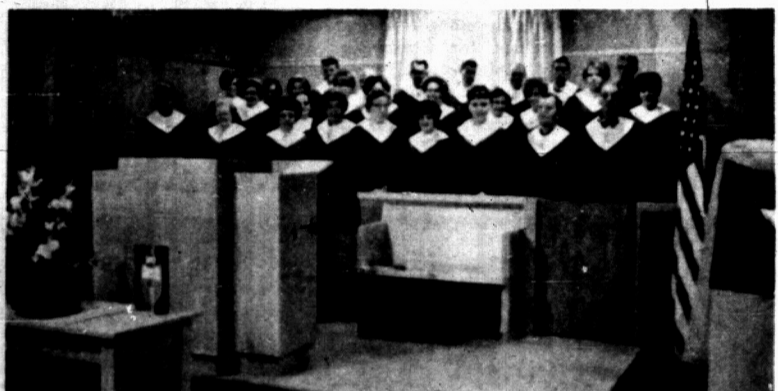
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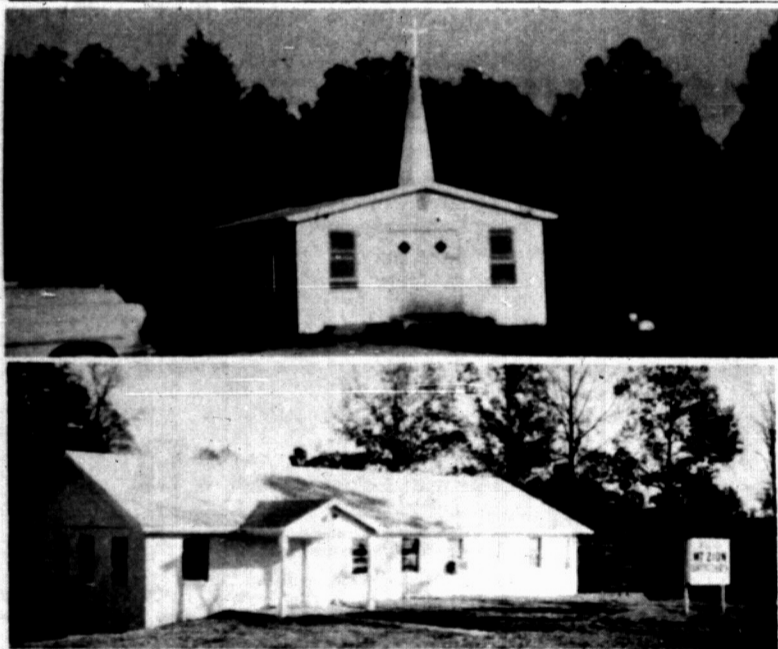
Missionaries, Money, and Lottie Moon

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT at Woman's Missionary Union headquarters in Birmingham, Alabama, is captured in the little black trunk which belonged to Lottie Moon. Mrs. W. W. Adams (left), missionary emerita, and Mrs. Lucy Ayers Pitman, daughter of the first Southern Baptist medical missionary, both knew Miss Moon well, as the three served together in China. Mrs. Adams and her husband had the job of disposing of Miss Moon's possessions after the exhausted missionary died Christmas Eve, 1912. Mrs. Adams later gave the mementoes to WMU.



Ellisville State Choir Sings At Union

PICTURED is the Ellisville State School Choir, under the direction of Miss Lane Wigington (left of U. S. Flag), as they prepared for a Dec. 7 musical concert in the auditorium of First Baptist Church Mission, Union. Rev. Chester Estes, Jr., pastor, says, "I wish that all our churches could have this fine choir in their services just one time in 1970."



Mt. Zion Dedicates Building

Mt. Zion Church, Rankin County, celebrated its 10th anniversary Sunday, Dec. 7 with a dedication service and dinner in fellowship hall.

Mt. Zion was organized Dec. 7, 1959, with 46 members. At the time it was meeting in its first permanent building. It had previously been meeting in the homes of several members — Mr. and Mrs. Fred Byrd, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. John Crain, and others.

On the same day the church was organized, Maynard Lewis, Marvin Lewis, and Joseph Brinson were ordained as deacons.

Shortly after its organization, the church called Rev. Glynn Wiggins as pastor.

Rev. Kenneth Pickens was called as pastor on May 28, 1961. A motion was passed Sept. 6, 1961 that the church

borrow money and pay off the debt on the first building (top photo) and start construction of a new building (bottom photo.) In November, 1964, the church purchased the present pastorage. In May, 1966 the church called Rev. Johnnie Jones, who served as pastor until Sept. 1968. In Oct. 1968, they called Rev. T. C. Pinson as pastor. At this time the church began participating in the Southern Baptist Minister Protection Plan.

During the last few years the church has had serving as Ministers of Music the following: Billy H. Thomas, E. C. Harpe, and Ronald Tullos. Each year the church observes Youth Week, the first was held in April 23, 1961 with Betty Jo Byrd, Troy Grantham and James Lee Crain as speakers. Mt. Zion Church has 87 resident members, of which 36 are tithers. The income for the past church year was \$12,972.



Clarke College Class Visits Baptist Building

A CLASS in religious education from Clarke College, led by Dr. C. H. Melton, professor of religious education, visited Baptist points of interest in Jackson recently and are seen in chapel of Baptist Building. The tour was part of the "in-service" training program sponsored by the Cooperative Mission Department of the Convention Board in which the students study Baptist life and work. Therman V. Bryant, department associate, directs this work.

Deacons Busy At Ist, Boyle

At First Church, Boyle, a deacon heads the new Missions Committee and already plans are being discussed for the formation of a new mission and then a church. A group of 25-30 people are meeting in a home each Tuesday evening for prayer service. A tentative location has been selected for the mission and plans to secure the necessary leadership are underway.

A new Evangelistic Committee is at work and a census is being taken of the entire area. This information will be tabulated and used in a forthcoming revival.

Recently the deacons voted to sponsor a revival in mid-winter. They will select the evangelist, the music leader, the instrumentalists, and other leaders. The revival will be peculiar insofar as church-centered revivals are concerned (as compared to area-wide crusades) in that a prayer evangelist will be selected to spend a week in preparing the church for the coming of the evangelist and the week of services.

The Youth Committee, headed by a deacon, will begin studying for a new youth program to be initiated soon. The new program will be one that will provide entertainment, but will also offer the challenge of Christian service.

On a recent Sunday eleven of the twelve deacons and their wives were present for the evening services. At a recent meeting of the pastor with the deacons and their wives it was agreed to initiate a weekly visitation program. At the conclusion of the evening service recently the pastor asked that all those who would like to join a new "Army of the Lord" movement by dedicating themselves to complete surrender and service come to the front of the church. The deacons and their wives were observed to be among the first to respond.

Southern Hills Calls Youth Director

Rev. John Patterson, a junior at Mississippi College, has accepted the call of Southern Hills Baptist Church, Jackson, to become youth director.

He has served as youth director at First Church Fayette, and as interim pastor of the church at Lake.

He is a graduate of Clarke College. Rev. David T. Cranford is pastor of Southern Hills.



"Whiskey At The Wheel"

NASHVILLE — Marse Grant, editor of the "Biblical Recorder," Baptist state paper for North Carolina, shows a copy of his new book to Col. Edwin C. Guy, commanding officer of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. The book, to be released Jan. 1 by Broadman Press, is "Whiskey at the Wheel: The Scandal of Driving and Drinking." Guy is recognized as one of America's foremost experts on the Breathalyzer, which Grant discusses in detail in his book.

Former Carey Professor Dies

The funeral for Dr. John C. McGraw, former professor of William Carey College, was held last Monday in Abilene, Texas with Dr. L. O. Harris, Chairman of the Hardin - Simmons University Bible Department, officiating.

Dr. McGraw, 61, chairman of the Division of Social Studies of the History Department at Hardin - Simmons since 1967 died at 12:50 a.m. Saturday in Hendrick Memorial Hospital.

He received the B. A. degree from Howard Payne College and the Master of Arts from Hardin - Simmons University. He held the Ph.D. from Texas Tech, Lubbock, Texas.

Survivors include his wife, two sons, Dr. James Carroll McGraw of Seattle, Wash., and John Gordon McGraw of Fort Worth, Tex., one daughter, Winnie Jensey McGraw of Houston, and five sisters, and two grandchildren.

50th Anniversary

On December 21, Rev. J. H. Street of Newton will observe the 50th anniversary of his ordination, in services at Pine Grove Church, Benton County. Rev. E. A. Autry, pastor. He was ordained to the ministry by this church on December 21, 1919.

Victory Heights Mission To Hold First Services

Rev. Ronnie Wilburn, pastor of Victory Heights Mission, Cleveland, has announced that the new mission will conduct first Sunday services December 14. The morning worship service will be held at 11:00 a.m. and the Sunday school at 10:00 a.m. Training Union will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the evening worship hour at 7:00 p.m. A dinner on the grounds will be enjoyed at the conclusion of the morning worship hour.

This new mission, from First Church, Boyle, has been meeting for week-end building has been secured on Highway 61.

The church will become a part of

Bolivar Association. They have called Rev. Ronnie Wilburn as their first full-time pastor. He has served as associate pastor for missions from First Church, Boyle for several months.

There is a marked contrast between the appearance of people in their fifties and older who have been drinking cocktails daily over a period of years compared to those who have been very moderate or abstinent, said Amy Vanderbilt in a recent column in the Birmingham Post Herald. The women drinkers look older; the men often show facial puffiness, obesity, lack of muscle tone and lessening alertness.

Devotional

Christmas Country

By Tom W. Dunlap, pastor, First, Natchez

"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord."—Luke 2:11

When we get to Christmas: How much further to Christmas: As I have previously stated, Christmas begins with the Individual, then moves into the "Church Circle" and finally moves down into the Family Circle and again to the Individual. This brings us to our personal relationship to Jesus Christ.



In Christmas Country there is the OUTSIDE OF CHRISTMAS. It might be called the Color of Christmas... daily wrapped gifts of Nostalgia—solacing reminders of gentler days—to warm the hearts of sentimental friends—those almost forgotten experiences of other times and other places, surprises and amusements to give those who delight in CHRISTMAS COUNTRY and actually believe in the magic of nostalgia a real sense of joy.

There is the sound of Christmas in the Outside of Christmas. Carols playing in the Stores, Christmas Carols heard over the public address systems in the streets, the sound of bells at the Salvation Army Booth on the street, the sound of voices of well known Friends that are now a bit higher in the excitement of the fact that it is not much further to Christmas. The gaiety is one of cheer and sheer joy.

Finally, we come to the INSIDE OF CHRISTMAS. The members of the family who have gone to their Eternal Reward have had their graves decorated with an artificial floral arrangement. Now, all the living members of the family are gathered under the same old roof again. Late at night a Father or a Mother will slip into the room of a son or a daughter and look once again at the sleeping form of a beloved one and will thank God for His Unspeaking Gift of His own Son as Saviour and for the gift of a Child to the Family—When this happens Christmas is here and the journey to Christmas is over.

Perhaps there are no Children in the home—it becomes necessary for some to go to a Cathedral late at night to worship, for others it will suffice to go to our own little Church and worship and give thanks in the still of the night. For others the master of worship can be accomplished by going to the smallest Mission known about, for it is here that we meet our God and feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

It doesn't matter whether it is Cathedral, Church or Mission, the meeting of the Spirit of Man with the Holy Spirit of God is the important matter. When these Spirits meet and are united, it becomes "Glory to God in the Highest and peace on Earth and good will towards all men." Then we have reached Christmas Country. Christmas is a Reality—Christ Lives and reigns in us. "Glory to God in the Highest!"

Names In The News

James B. McElroy directed the Chancel Choir of Forest Church December 14 in the presentation of portions of Handel's "Messiah." Charles Palmer was organist and Mrs. D. R. Gibson, Jr. pianist. Soloists were Mrs. Fred Gaddis, Jr., Mrs. Thomas Colbert, soprano; Mrs. Jimmy Rogers, Mrs. Jerry Bustin, alto; Jack Kihn, alto; Curlee Green, bass.

Rev. Woodrow Burt of Newton has accepted a call to become pastor of New Fellowship, Jasper County. He leaves Lawrence Church, Newton County, where he has been pastor since December, 1967. Mr. Burt serves Clarke College as admissions counselor, debate coach, and youth team sponsor. A graduate of Newton High School, Clarke College, and Mississippi College he served with the Home Mission Board as student summer missionary in California in 1966.

Rev. Charles Burnham was ordained to the gospel ministry on November 23, at Union Church in Rankin County, with the pastor, Rev. Russell Naron, giving the charge and presenting a Bible to the candidate. The ordination sermon was delivered by Rev. Leo Timms, pastor of Beulah Church, Scott County. Rev. Johnny Jones, pastor of Puckett Church, Rankin County, gave the charge to the church, where Mr. Burnham made his life dedication at the age of 16. Mr. Burnham, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Leake County, where he has served since October 1, 1968 is married to the former Shirley Phillips of Pearl. The Burnhams reside in Newton, where they are both students at Clarke College.

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Cantata At Plymouth

Plymouth Church Choir, Columbus, will present the Christmas Cantata titled: "Christis Born," December 21 at 7:00 p.m. The choir is directed by Grover Fairchild, with Mrs. Fairchild at the piano. The pastor, Rev. Clyde H. Wroten, extends an invitation to the public.



Mrs. Roland Q. Leavell was honored by the William Carey College Alumni Association on Saturday, December 6, during Homecoming Activities with the "Outstanding Alumnus of the Year" award. It was presented to her at the annual Homecoming luncheon by president of the college, Dr. J. Ralph Noonkester, who paid tribute to Mrs. Leavell as "the epitome of gracious, Christian womanhood." He spoke at length of her contributions to the denomination both as an individual and as the wife of one of the greatest of Southern Baptist leaders. Mrs. Leavell, the former Lillian Yarbrough, is a former resident of Mississippi and was a trustee on the Board of Trustees of William Carey College in 1962-3. She is the mother of three outstanding daughters, each of whom is married to a Christian minister. She graduated from William Carey College in 1923 when the school was known as Mississippi Woman's College.

Kenneth Wayne Moore, son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Moore, Sr., was licensed to the ministry by Arbor Grove Church, Houston, Chickasaw Association, Sunday, December 7. He is married to Janice Martin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Martin, Houston, Mr. Moore's plans are at present to enter Clarke College in the near future. He will be available for supply preaching and would be glad to accept a church as pastor. His address is, Rt. No. 1, Box 42, Houston 38851. Rev. Pardee Tutor is pastor at the Arbor Grove Church.

David W. Young, director of the choir at Main Street Church, Goodman, announces that Main Street Church presented an annual Christmas service December 14, in music and scripture, on the theme, "The Birth, Death, and Resurrection of Christ." Mr. Young is instructor in instrumentation and director of bands at Holmes Junior College. Specially featured on the program were Marion Ousley, Mrs. David W. Young, Mrs. Robert Garfison, Mrs. Robert Johnson, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Carley.

Melita Ann Shoemaker presented her fourth piano and organ recital on Sunday, December 14 at First Church, Clara. She was presented by her teacher (aunt), Mrs. Jack Carter. N. L. Shoemaker, Jr., her father, and N. L. Shoemaker, III, her brother, joined her with one number on twin-trumpets. Vivian Dean, soloist, sang two numbers. Melita, 15, a sophomore at Clara High School, has won many honors in music, the last of which was accompanist for the State Baptist Youth Ensemble. She is organist for her church and teaches nine piano students. Rev. David Edenfield is pastor of the Clara Church.



Training Union

MISSISSIPPI YOUTH CONVENTION

SPEAKER



RON WILLIS

Pastor
Golden Gate Baptist
Church Oakland, California

BROADMOOR

BAPTIST

CHURCH

Jackson, Mississippi

DECEMBER 29 - 30

FEATURES

YOUTH SONG
LEADER

TELL IT LIKE IT IS!
DIRECTOR

RECREATION
DIRECTOR



DAVID LARRIMORE
Minister of Music
Calvary Baptist
Church Tupelo



KURT KAISER
Director of Music
Word Record
Waco, Texas



JOHN BEWLEY
Minister of Activities
Broadmoor Baptist
Church, Jackson